Message Text

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, EC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PUBLIC DEBATE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

1. THE COMMISSION HAS JUST NOMINATED THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL WHICH WILL DIRECT THE PUBLIC DEBATES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 29 AND 30 IN BRUSSELS ON ENERGY NEEDS AND SUPPLIES UNTIL THE END OF THE CENTURY, AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. CHAIRED BY COM-MISSIONER GUIDO BRUNNER, THIS PANEL WILL INCLUDE ALDO AJELLO (ITALY) CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ENVIR-ONMENT COMMITTEE; MRS DORTE BENNEDSEN (DENMARK), FORMER MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND PRESIDENT OF THE DANISH CONSUMERS' COUNCIL: RENE BONETY (FRANCE), MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND EXPERT IN THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT OF THE CFDT; ALBERT COPPE (BELGIUM), FORMER VICE-PRESI-DENT OF THE ECSC HIGH AUTHORITY AND FORMER COMMISSION MEM-BER; JEAN COUTURE (FRANCE), PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH FUELS AND ENERGY INSTITUTE; GERALD LEACH (UNITED KINGDOM), UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE'S ENERGY PROGRAM; TOM NORMANTON (UNITED KINGDOM), MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT; AND WILLIAM MILLER (UNITED KINGDOM), DIRECTOR OF SAVE AND PROSPER GROUP LTD AND MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

2. FOR ITS FIRST SESSION OF NUCLEAR "HEARINGS," 22 SPEAK-

ERS WILL PRESENT REPORTS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION. FIVE OF THESE SPEAKERS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT BUREAU, FOUR BY THE EUROPEAN TRADES UNION FEDERATION, FOUR BY THE COMMISSION AND NINE OTHERS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FROM LISTS PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY (UNIPEDE), THE UNION OF INDUSTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (UNICE) AND THE EUROPEAN CENTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISE (CEEP).

3. COMMENT: MISSION HAS RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THIS PUBLIC DEBATE AND WILL ATTEND SELECTED PORTIONS. THERE IS MIXED REACTION TO THIS COMMISSION INITIATIVE WITH-IN THE COMMUNITY, RANGING FROM DISDAIN TO ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT. THE DISDAINFUL FEEL THAT THE WHOLE THING IS A WHITEWASH, THAT THE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND IN SUPPORT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND THAT THE SEVERELY LIMITED CAPACITY FOR PUBLIC ATTENDANCE MAKES THE AFFAIR A CLOSED, NOT A PUBLIC, MEETING. THE ENTHUSIASTIC BELIEVE THAT THIS TYPE OF THING HAS LONG BEEN NEEDED. WILL ALLOW ALL VIEWS TO BE EXPRESSED, AND, BY CREATING A BETTER-INFORMED PUBLIC, WILL SOFTEN THE OPPOSITION TO CONTINUED NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNITY. THE COMMISSION, IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE DISRUPTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS, HAS INSTITUTED STRICT SECURITY MEASURES AT THE MEETING HALL. MORRIS

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